

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Shortage of Pure Glass for
Chemical Research Needs

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1. A shortage of pure glass used in research apparatus has been hampering chemical research in Czechoslovakia. Not only are basic raw materials in short supply, but there is a dearth of catalytic agents (doprovodne ciste suroviny), which cannot be produced.
2. The lack of pure glass arises from the embargo placed by Western countries on raw materials needed in the production of high quality glass. Present glass test tubes and beakers contain traces of lead which show up when chemical tests are being run. Inability to resist high temperatures is another characteristic of glass now being produced in Czechoslovakia by the Kavalirove Sklarny at Bazava (051/416), the only makers of chemical glass in the country.
3. Although an acute shortage of chemists still exists, their number is being augmented by graduates from the universities and technical schools, who are being hired by chemical plants. In addition, older scientists, who had been discharged for political reasons after the 1948 coup, have been rehired in new industries in Slovakia. Tachema, for instance, has hired many chemists who had been dismissed from their jobs in Bohemia and Moravia but who are not considered undesirable in Slovakia.

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